

Comment Form

Thank you for taking the time to comment on the WAC 246-453 draft rules. Please submit any comment(s) you have as soon as possible prior to a scheduled meeting. Please submit a separate form for each section of the rules on which you would like to comment via email to:

CharityCare@DOH.WA.GOV

Comment submitted by:

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Section commented on: [246-453-010, -020, -040](#)

Position (support/oppose): Choose an item.

1. Statement of problem/comment and substantiation:

The legislature added a definition of “third-party coverage” to RCW 70.170.020. There was already a definition of that term in WAC that is different from the new definition. The term “third-party sponsorship” was also used in WAC.

2. Suggested solution/proposed language:

See attached language. Keeps definition in WAC for ease of access and replaces all occurrences of “third-party sponsorship” with “third party coverage.”

3. Applicable research and/or substantiation of suggested solution/proposed language:

Reflects consensus from earlier workgroup.

4. Benefit of suggested solution/proposed language to the public:

Harmonizes WAC with RCW and keeps definition accessible in WAC for ease of reference.

5. Benefit of suggested solution/proposed language to hospitals:

Harmonizes WAC with RCW and keeps definition accessible in WAC for ease of reference.

6. Identified impacts (cost or otherwise) of suggested solution/proposed language to hospitals:

Discussion Notes (DOH staff only):

Chapter 246-453 WAC

HOSPITAL CHARITY CARE

246-453-010

Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise,

(9) "Third-party coverage" and "~~third-party sponsorship~~" means an obligation on the part of an insurance company, health service contractor, health maintenance organization, group health plan, or governmental program, tribal health benefits, or health care sharing ministry as defined in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 5000A which contracts with hospitals and patients to pay for the care of covered patients and services and may include settlements, judgments, or awards actually received related to the negligent acts of others which have resulted in the medical condition for which the patient has received hospital services; The pendency of such settlements, judgments, or awards must not stay hospital obligations to consider an eligible patient for charity care.

(14) "Responsible party" means that individual who is responsible for the payment of any hospital charges which are not subject to ~~third-party sponsorship~~ third-party coverage;

(20) "Final determination of sponsorship status" means the verification of third party coverage or lack of third party coverage, as evidenced by payment received from the third party sponsor or denial of payment by the alleged third party sponsor, and verification of the responsible party's qualification for classification as an indigent person, subsequent to the completion of any appeals to which the responsible party may be entitled and which on their merits have a reasonable chance of achieving ~~third-party sponsorship~~ third-party coverage in full or in part.

246-453-020

Uniform procedures for the identification of indigent persons.

For the purpose of identifying those patients that will be classified as indigent persons, all hospitals shall adopt and implement the following procedures:

(4) Hospitals must make every reasonable effort to determine the existence or nonexistence of ~~third-party sponsorship~~ third-party coverage that might cover in full or in part the charges for services provided to each patient.

246-453-040

Uniform criteria for the identification of indigent persons.

For the purpose of identifying indigent persons, all hospitals shall use the following criteria:

(1) All responsible parties with family income equal to or below one hundred percent of the federal poverty standard, adjusted for family size, shall be determined to be indigent persons qualifying for charity sponsorship for the full amount of hospital charges related to appropriate hospital-based medical services that are not covered by ~~private or public third-party sponsorship~~ third-party coverage;